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# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

25 May 2018

We really are in full swing with the exam season now with both the GCSE and AS papers taking place. The very hot weather is making it even harder for the girls but they are remaining calm and seem to be coping well. At least there is the half term break coming up!



The Upper Sixth have been rather excited all week as they headed towards their eagerly awaited final day of formal school yesterday. Always a day of fun, this year involved an amusing student led assembly, a few morning frivolities and an ice cream van on site for everyone to enjoy. I do hope they feel that they had a good time! There is the lovely Leavers Dinner later in the term so we will still have an opportunity to spend quality time with them before they finally leave us for pastures new.

The Midsummer Concert was another brilliant event in the Performing Arts calendar. This was an opportunity for so many of our Middle School musicians to shine and it was a really entertaining evening showing off a real depth of talent (and courage!). Well done, everyone!

On which note may I wish you all a lovely break and I truly hope that the exam year groups enjoy some down time between their bouts of revision.

And now for the week's news:

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## Wonderful Midsummer Concert



What a lovely way to end the half-term; hearing the talents of our young musicians, from Year 5 to Lower 5. The Middle School Choir, complete with actions, presented a memorable rendition of 'Cabaret' and the Maynard Concert Orchestra impressed us with their medley of music from 'The Wizard of Oz'. Alongside these larger ensembles we enjoyed duets and a quartet performance as well as a wide range of top-notch soloists. A huge well done to all the girls involved and how lovely to know that the musical future of the school is in safe hands.

### Women's Empowerment and Leadership Day

Twelve of our girls from the Upper Sixth, Lower 5 and Upper 4 enjoyed a wonderful day at Westonbirt School for the GSA Women's Empowerment and Leadership Day on Monday. It was a fantastic event featuring some excellent motivational speakers and workshops; we were very proud of our girls for asking such incisive questions and so thoroughly engaging themselves in the experience.



The visiting panellists included, amongst other high profile speakers, a Director from the Institute of Engineering and Technology, a representative from Euan Blair's Apprenticeship organisation, a leading media specialist and a Director of Operations for a multi-million pound UK Government-funded international development project. The girls were also treated to four separate workshops covering 'The importance of networking', 'Communicating with confidence', 'People like me' and 'Preparing for onward experience'.



One of the strongest aspects from the day was not so much how to achieve success but, more importantly, how to deal with the disappointment when life hasn't followed an initial desired path - essentially, how something that at first might appear negative, can often have a positive outcome.

It was a thoroughly thought-provoking day and has equipped our students with some essential skills that will benefit them for their futures ahead.

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### Ad hoc Outdoor Learning opportunities

This week's wonderful weather has certainly brought much of the school out to enjoy the warmth and sunshine. Leebourne has been scattered with various classes these past few days, the Rose Garden played host to Mrs Dersley's Lower 5 Maths class on the volume of the pyramid and Reception took advantage of the sunshine to learn about floating and sinking. It's been a wonderful week and the perfect opportunity to enjoy our pretty grounds.





### Pre-Prep Forest School fun

The girls in the Pre-Prep are continuing to have fantastic fun in their weekly Forest School sessions, albeit it has been relocated to Leebourne to ensure that the area around the gym, where the GCSE students are sitting their exams, remains peaceful. Last week they created flower collages and bird feeders and this week they made mobiles from sticks, topped off with the essential roasting of marshmallows around the camp fire! Our thanks to Mrs Davey who has been running these sessions with such infectious enthusiasm that they have become a firm highlight for so many!



### Silk painting in Year 3

Inspired by their love of nature, Year Three have been silk painting this week. They have been hugely focused and have thoroughly enjoyed using gutta and silk paint - with some splendid results!



## Royal wedding fever in the Pre-Prep

The lead up to the Royal wedding was a most exciting affair in the Junior School and they enjoyed so many activities that it was hard to report on them all. As a reminder of last weekend's wonderful event, we just wanted to share with you these lovely poems about weddings created by the girls in Year 1.



## Athletics news



We took our Under 8, Under 9, Under 11 and Under 13 Athletics teams to Blundell's Prep last Friday for a combined ages event against schools such as Stover, Blundell's, Exeter Cathedral School, St. Peter's Prep and Mount Kelly.

The 'mini's' competed in a carousel of athletics events including the 75m sprint, long jump, ball throw and team relay. The older athletes were able to take part in two individual events, plus the relay, and these included distance races, sprints, long and high jump, ball throw and javelin.

It was a wonderful day of athletics, with every team member rising to the challenge of the competition and trying their utmost. What was particularly special was how well the Under 13 team acted as role models for the younger girls, coaching them, organising them and encouraging them in their events. Our thanks to Jessie Menzies, Louisa Thomson, Megan Abrahams, Grace Oldfield, Sophie Barker and Katie Harries for all their invaluable support!





### Junior School Rounders round-up

Our Junior School Rounders teams are in full swing and enjoying a busy calendar of fixtures. On Wednesday, the Under 10s played Stover with a convincing 15 - 5 win putting some beaming smiles on their faces. The Under 11 teams also had some tightly contested games and, although both were defeated, there were some lovely moments of play in the field and in terms of batting.



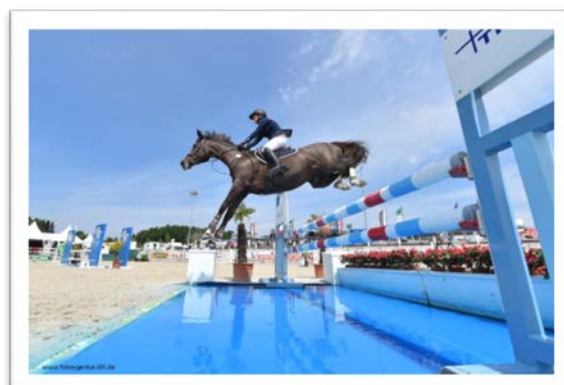
Equally, the Under 9 A and B teams enjoyed some competitive fixtures against Exeter School this week with the As winning 17.5 - 10.5 and the Bs losing 5.5 - 13.5. Well done to them all for their great sportsmanship and wonderful team spirit - we are justifiably very proud of them!



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### Ellie Simpson jumping high for Great Britain

Further to the exciting announcement that Eleanor Simpson (Upper 3) was selected to represent GB in show jumping's Nations Cup held in Austria last weekend, we are delighted to report that she finished as the highest placed Brit in 7th place in the 'Children on Horses' class. To hold her nerve under the immense pressure and the enormity of the occasion is a stunning feat and, as the youngest competitor in the team, she still has two more years in this class so the future looks very bright indeed. This is certainly one to watch!



## Junior School Sports Day



Don't forget that it is the Junior School Sports Day on Friday 8 June starting at 10.15am on the Mount Radford Lawn. This is always such a fun and exciting event with all the girls being very competitive for their Houses; in the morning they will compete in a carousel of field events and middle distance races, followed by a picnic lunch before the afternoon's sprint and novelty races. The MPA will very kindly be selling cream teas throughout the afternoon and the final presentations will take place at 1500. Please do come along and join in the fun – your support is always very much appreciated by both us and the girls!

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## And finally ...

We have to share with you this photo of many of the staff here at The Maynard enjoying a spot of dragon boating on the quay on Monday evening, supported by a large land crew of other staff members making the most of the onshore hospitality! It was a great opportunity to let our hair down, enjoy the weather and have a lot of summer fun!



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Have a wonderful half term!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

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